

CLAIMS:

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a combination of a selective or specific COX 2 inhibitor, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof, and an opiate, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof, as active ingredients, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
2. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the selective or specific COX 2 inhibitor is selected from the group comprising meloxicam, celecoxib, rofecoxib and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or derivatives thereof.
3. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the opiate is selected from the group comprising codeine, morphine, tramadol, fentanyl and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or derivatives thereof.
4. A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the selective or specific COX 2 inhibitor and opiate are provided in amounts such that the combination is therapeutically effective in treating pain, in an algesic and/or hyperalgesic state, with or without fever.
5. A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising a combination of meloxicam, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof, and codeine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof.
6. A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the composition comprises a combination of meloxicam, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof, and tramadol, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof.

-20-

7. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, consisting essentially of meloxicam and codeine.
8. A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 1 to 6, further comprising a centrally-acting cyclo-oxygenase inhibitor as an active ingredient.
9. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8, wherein the centrally-acting cyclo-oxygenase inhibitor is paracetamol.
10. A combination of a selective or specific COX 2 inhibitor and an opiate, or pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives or salts thereof, as active ingredients, for use in the treatment of pain, in an algesic and/or hyperalgesic state, with or without fever, the amounts of the active ingredients being selected such that the combination is therapeutically effective.
11. The combination of claim 10, wherein the combination is as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9.
12. The combination of claim 10 or claim 11, wherein the active ingredients are each provided in therapeutic amounts.
13. The combination of claim 10 or claim 11, wherein at least one of the COX 2 inhibitor, the opiate and the centrally-acting cyclo-oxygenase inhibitor, when present, is provided in sub-therapeutic amounts.
14. The combination of claim 10 or claim 11, wherein all of the active ingredients are provided in sub-therapeutic amounts.
15. The combination of any one of claims 10 to 14, wherein the pain is associated with inflammation.

-21-

16. The combination according to claim 15, wherein the pain is associated with trauma, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, non-inflammatory myalgia or dysmenorrhoea.
17. The use of a combination of a selective or specific COX 2 inhibitor and an opiate, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or derivatives thereof, as active ingredients, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in a method of treating pain, in an algesic and/or hyperalgesic state, with or without fever.
18. The use of claim 17, wherein the medicament is provided in a dosage form selected from the group comprising tablets, capsules, granules, suspensions, solutions and other liquid forms.
19. The use of claim 18, wherein the medicament is administered orally, rectally, transdermally, intramuscularly or intravenously.
20. The use of claim 19, wherein the dosage form is administered to a patient from 1 to 4 times a day.
21. The use of claim 18, wherein the medicament is administered as an infusion, continuous or otherwise.
22. A method of treating pain, in an algesic and/or hyperalgesic state, with or without fever, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a combination of a selective or specific COX 2 inhibitor and an opiate, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts or derivatives thereof, as active ingredients.
23. A method according to claim 22, wherein the selective or specific COX 2 inhibitor is selected from the group comprising meloxicam, celecoxib, rofecoxib and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or derivatives thereof.

-22-

24. A method according to claim 22 or claim 23, wherein the opiate is selected from the group comprising codeine, morphine, tramadol, fentanyl and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or derivatives thereof.
25. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 24, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a combination of meloxicam and codeine.
26. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 24, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a combination of meloxicam and tramadol.
27. A method according to claim 25 or claim 26, wherein the meloxicam is provided in an amount to give a daily dose from about 0.5 mg to about 30 mg.
28. A method according to claim 27, wherein the daily dose of meloxicam is from about 7.5 mg to about 15 mg.
29. A method according to claim 25, wherein the codeine is provided in an amount to give a daily dose from about 10 mg to about 360 mg.
30. A method according to claim 26, wherein the tramadol is provided in an amount to give a daily dose from about 25mg to about 500mg.
31. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 30, further comprising administering a centrally-acting cyclo-oxygenase inhibitor to the patient.
32. A method according to claim 31, wherein the centrally-acting cyclo-oxygenase inhibitor is paracetamol.

-23-

33. A method according to claim 32, wherein the paracetamol is provided in an amount to give a daily dose from about 60 mg to about 4000 mg.
34. A method according to claim 25, wherein the ratio of meloxicam to codeine is about 0.05 to 2.0 meloxicam: 1 to 6 codeine.
35. A method according to claim 34, wherein the ratio of meloxicam to codeine is from about 0.1 to 1.0 meloxicam: 2 to 4 codeine.